

Message Text

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41

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

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R 281300Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 316

INFO CEX AB/AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA 1837

CONFIDENTIAL KHARTOUM 2033

POUCHED CAIRO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SU

SUBJ: GOVERNMENT CHANGES

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI AUG 27 APPOINTED BRIG (RET) MUZZAMIL SULIMAN GHANDOUR AS MIN OF INTERIOR (REPLACING FIRST VICE PRESIDENT MOHAMMED AL-BAGHIR AHMED) AND ABBAS ABDEL MAJID, FORMERLY COMMISSIONER OF NORTH KORDOFAN PROVINCE, AS MIN OF STATE FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. PRESIDENT ALSO UPGRADED THREE DEPUTY MINISTERS: DR. FATIMA ABDEL MAHMOUD TO MIN OF STATE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE, MIN OF YOUTH, SPORTS AND SOCIAL WELFARE; MAJOR GENERAL (RET) MUBARAK OSMAN RAHMA TO MIN OF STATE FOR SUPPLY, MIN OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY; AND SHARIF AL-KHATIM TO MIN OF STATE FOR BUDGET, MIN OF FINANCE AND NATIONAL ECONOMY. FINALLY, KARAMALLA AL-AWAD, COMMISSIONER OF RED SEA PROVINCE, WAS ACCORDED PERSONAL RANK OF MINISTER OF STATE.

2. GHANDOUR, WHO MOST RECENTLY HAS BEEN SERVING AS COUNSELLOR TO PRESIDENT FOR FOREIGN ECONOMIC COOPERATION, WAS REPORTEDLY CONSIDERED FOR PRESIDENCY OF RCC AT TIME OF 1969 COUP (WHEN HE WAS IN EGYPT ON A TRAINING COURSE) BUT WAS REJECTED BY COUP LEADERS AS "TOO BRIGHT" AND DIFFICULT TO CONTROL. WHILE STILL REGARDED AS VERY AMBITIOUS, HE HAS BEEN IN RELATIVE OBSCURITY IN RECENT

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YEARS AS AMBASSADOR TO FRG.

3. COMMENT: GHANDOUR APPOINTMENT, WHICH LENDS CREDENCE TO RUMOR THAT AL-BAGHIR MAY BE ON WAY OUT (KHARTOUM 1840), MAY BE SEEN AS INTENDED COUNTERWEIGHT TO SSU DEPUTY SEC-GEN AND MIN OF AGRICULTURE ABUL GASSIM MOHAMED IBRAHIM, WHO KNOWN TO HAVE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR CURRENT COZINESS WITH KHATMIYYA (SEPTEL). IN THIS RESPECT, IT IS INTERESTING THAT ABDEL MAJID APPOINTMENT WAS REPORT-EDLY INSTIGATED BY NIMEIRI RATHER THAN MIN IBRAHIM AS WOULD NOR-MALLY HAVE BEEN CASE. AMONG MINISTERS OF STATE, ONLY PROMOTION OF POSSIBLE SIGNIFICANCE IS THAT MUBARAK OSMN RAHMA, WHO IS KNOWN TO COME FROM STAUNCH UMMA BACKGROUND.

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